Course Description

One of the most important tasks of the MA program is the training of the students toward scholarly research. Students should be able to assess the state of the scholarly literature, identify interesting questions, form strategies for answering them, locate suitable methodological tools which will enable them to conduct the research, and finally understand how to write the results in an academic fashion.

Although in almost every course these questions are addressed indirectly, in this course they will become the center of attention. We will analyze these issues in multiple contexts and variety of political theories. We will try to uncover the various paths to political analysis by focusing on empirical methods, both qualitative and quantitative, and extend these to various political schools of thought. All that will be done using various examples from Israeli politics, comparative politics and other subfields of political science.
The aim of the class is to address the importance and centrality of the various approaches to political inquiry. We will discuss various types of empirical evidence: historical, quantitative and more. We will also explore the various methodologies commonly used in political research, such as survey research, experiments, statistical analysis, case studies and more.

Course Goals

Eligibility for Final Paper Submission is composed of:

1. Mandatory attendance record – no more than three absences during the entire semester. (if you have any justifications please send it to the program student admin and they will take care of it and inform us)
2. Reading the course materials and educated participation during lectures!
4. Submitting Paper Abstract and approving it.
5. Submitting Paper Demo and approving it.

Important Dates and Deadlines

• Paper Topic is due Week 4.
• Paper Abstract is due Week 8.
• Paper Demo is due Week 10.
• Final Paper is due Week 13.

ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED & UPLOADED TO THE COURSE WEBSITE AS PDF FILE ONLY

Grading

Course Requirements and Grade Composition

• Paper topic assignment – 5% of the total grade – will be submitted at Week 4.
• Paper abstract assignment – 5% of the total grade – will be submitted at Week 8.
• Paper demo assignment – 10% of the total grade – will be submitted at Week 10.
Final Paper – **80% of total grade** – will be submitted at **Week 13**.

All plagiarism issues will be handled with accordance to the IDC bulletin and policies.

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**Lecturer Office Hours**

Instructor: Dr. Hani Zubida

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Office Hours: by appointment

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**Teaching Assistant**

Teaching Assistant: Miss Leore Spira

E-mail: leore.spira@post.idc.ac.il

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**Additional Notes**

**Appendix**

**Topic, Abstract, Demo and Final Paper Guide**

- Last Date to Submit the **Paper Topic** is **Week 4**.

Each student should submit a research questions with up to 500 words of explanation of the topic and their research method – [Read the “Guidelines to the Paper Topic” on your course website](#). Submission of the papers as an ELECTRONIC copy to the course web site.

- Last Date to submit **Paper Abstract** is **Week 8**.

What do we have to write in the Paper Abstract? – [Read the “Guidelines to the Paper Abstract” on your course site](#). Submission of the papers as an ELECTRONIC copy to the course web site.

Your Abstract should provide answers to 4 basic questions:
1. What do you want to know? (specific problem or issue, research questions)
   **Ontology**

2. Why do you want to know it? Why should anyone care what you find? What difference does it make? **Epistemology**

3. What do you think the answer is, what are your hypothesis, what is your theory? Be sure to spell out the reasoning behind your hypothesis and the logical connections between them.

4. How do you intend to solve the puzzle? (Research design)

5. Annotated bibliography should include full reference of the item and its relevance to your work.

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Last Date to submit the **Paper Demo** is **Week 10**. Submission of the papers as an ELECTRONIC copy to the course web site.

The Demo – Read the **“Guidelines to the Paper Demo”** on your course site – is meant to help you understand how to apply the theories in your Final Papers. You will be given a Research Question as well as hypotheses to which you are required to provide a detailed list of the tools you will use to prove the given Hypotheses.

The Demo papers are to be submitted as an ELECTRONIC copy to the course web site as a WORD or PDF file.

The Demo should not exceed **one page only**.

The Demo is not an essay and should be written in the form of 2 bullet point lists, one for each of the theories you will use in your Final Paper.

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Last Date to submit the **Final Paper** is **Week 13**. Submission of the papers as an ELECTRONIC copy to the course web site.

The paper **Abstract** is the basis for the final paper.

The Final Paper would be **4500 to 5000 words** (That is between 15 to 20 pages long) **NO MORE NO LESS**. It should be based on the approved topic and the submitted Abstract, and will include all the necessary parts of an academic paper.

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**Reading List**

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Course Main Textbooks:


General Introduction

5. **Weeks 1, 2 & 3**

**The Discipline of Political Science - Definitions**

**Required Readings:**

- Marsh and Stoker. pp. 1-12

**Suggested Readings:**


**The Scientific Approach/Revolutions**

**Required Readings:**

- David Marsh and Paul Furlong, in Marsh and Stokes pp. 184-210

**Suggested Readings:**


Approaches
5. **Weeks 4 + 5**

**Behaviouralism**

**Required Readings:**

- David Sanders, in Marsh and Stoker pp. 23–41.

5. **Weeks 6 + 7**

**Rational Choice**

**Required Readings:**


**Suggested Readings:**


5. **Weeks 8 + 9**

**Institutionalism**

**Required Readings:**

- Vivien Lowndes. in Marsh and Stoker pp. 60–79.

**Suggested Readings:**
5.  **Weeks 10 + 11**

**Feminism**

**Required Readings:**

- Vicky Randall. in Marsh and Stoker pp. 114-135.

**Suggested Readings:**


5.  **Week 12 and 13**

**Marxist and Neo-Marxist Approaches**

**Required Readings:**

- Diarmuid Maguire. in Marsh and Stoker pp. 136-155.